

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9 and 11-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2, 7 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Please replace the listing of the claims from the May 11, 2011 Amendment with the listing of the claims provided herewith. Claims 1, 4, 11 and 12 have been amended for clarity and to remove the phrase "at least one region" being modified by the term "only." All other amendments were previously included with the May 11, 2011 Amendment.

No new matter has been added.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants kindly thank Examiner Shumate for the discussion of this application in the telephonic interview with Heidi Dare on May 18, 2011. No demonstration was given during the interview. Claims 1 and 4 and the terms "only" and "at least one region" were discussed. No agreement was reached during the interview. Applicants proposed to file a supplemental amendment.

II. Claim Rejections

Please see Applicants' discussion of the claim objections and rejections submitted with the May 11, 2011 Amendment.

Applicants have clarified claims 1, 4, 11 and 12. Claim 1 requires that only a portion of the nonwoven layer is hot calendered so that an average pore size of the portion of the nonwoven layer is smaller than 50 μm , and fibers are bonded together such that a movement of the fibers relative to each other in a direction parallel to a surface of the portion is inhibited. Claim 4 requires that an adhesive is provided only at a portion of the nonwoven layer so that an average pore size of the portion of the nonwoven layer is smaller than 50 μm , and fibers are bonded together such that a movement of the fibers relative to each other in a direction parallel to a surface of the portion is inhibited. Claims 11 and 12 require treating only a portion of the nonwoven layer such that the treated portion has an average pore size smaller than 50 μm , and

fibers are bonded together such that a movement of the fibers relative to each other in a direction parallel to a surface of the portion is inhibited. Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references cited in the February 11, 2011 Office Action teach or suggest a layer of a filter having a treatment on only a portion of the layer.

III. Summary

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above submissions in more detail, the Examiner is asked to please call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 23, 2011

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